

Mayor Martin O'Malley presents
The City of Baltimore Reservoirs

2005

Pocket Guide to Boating & Fishing



Notice

This Pocket Guide includes a summary of Baltimore City's Watershed Regulations. To the extent that a conflict may exist between this Pocket Guide and the Watershed Regulations, the Watershed Regulations shall prevail. Thank you.



Inside

Your *Pocket Guide to Boating and Fishing* contains valuable information on boating and fishing at the City of Baltimore's reservoirs and their watersheds : Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy.



Inside you will find:

Watershed fishing and boating regulations,

Maps of the three reservoirs and their watersheds,

Species stocking,

Survey information,

A list of species sighted at each watershed and phone numbers for further information.

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Special Thanks



Much of the information presented here was initially gathered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Freshwater Fisheries' biologists Ed Enamait, Charlie Gougeon, Letha Grimes, Todd Heerd, and Mark Staley. Additional information was provided by Baltimore City Public Works employee Gene Scarpulla of the Reservoir Natural Resources Section. Base maps were provided by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

The City also thanks the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, the Maryland Association of Mountain Bike Operators, the Maryland Fly Anglers, the Oldfields School, the Prettyboy Watershed Alliance, the United Methodist Church Conference, the Springdale Community Association and the Watershed Protection Coalition. These groups conducted shoreline and woodland cleanups at the reservoirs in 2004.

If your organization is interested in conducting a cleanup at one of the City's reservoirs, please contact the Department of Public Works at 410-396-5023.

A Message From The Director



Baltimore's three reservoirs, Loch Raven, Prettyboy and Liberty, serve not only as sources for our outstanding drinking water, they are also recreational treasures. Photographers, painters, bird watchers, bicyclists and picnickers all enjoy the rustic

splendor of these watersheds.

Boating and fishing on our reservoirs are favorite pastimes for many and call for special responsibilities by participants. I hope this booklet makes your visit even more pleasurable while helping you help us to preserve our valuable natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George L. Winfield".

George L. Winfield
Director

Fishing



FISHING LICENSES

- Fishing at all three City reservoirs requires a valid Maryland State Fishing License.
- Fishing licenses are available at most Maryland sporting goods stores.
- Persons under 16 do not require fishing licenses.
- No fishing fees are charged by Baltimore City or Baltimore County.

SEASONS AND TIMES

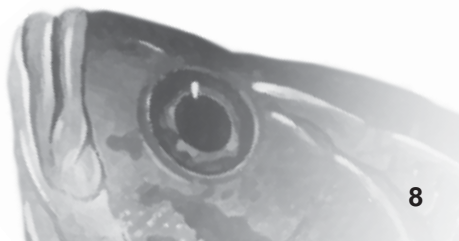
- The reservoirs are open sunrise to sunset year-round.
- Bank fishing is allowed at City reservoirs year-round.
- Boat fishing is allowed at Liberty and Prettyboy Reservoirs March 1st to December 31st.
- Boat fishing is allowed at Loch Raven Reservoir April 1st to November 27th (limited schedule after Labor Day).

METHODS OF FISHING

- Only fishing with rod, hook and line is allowed.
- Ice fishing, bow fishing and the use of nets or other devices is prohibited.
- Fishing is allowed from rowboats, runabouts and canoes.
- Maryland State Fishing Regulations, including size and creel limits, must be obeyed at all times.
- Fishing is allowed from the south side of the Deer Park/Nicodemus Road Bridge at Liberty Reservoir. The south side of the bridge has been retrofitted with a fishing area.

PROHIBITIONS

- *No fishing* from steep banks, rock cliffs or other dangerous locations.
- *No fishing* at designated fish refuge areas.
- *No fishing* from shells or kayaks.
- *No fishing* within 1500 feet of Prettyboy Dam.
- *No fishing* between Liberty Road and Liberty Dam.
- *No fishing* between Loch Raven Drive Bridge and the small Loch Raven Dam.
- *No fishing* from bridges (except designated platforms on the Dulaney Valley Road Bridge at Loch Raven and on the Nicodemus Road Bridge at Liberty).
- The use of float tubes, chest waders or hip boots is prohibited.





LIVE BAIT

- Live aquatic bait is prohibited *unless* purchased from a Maryland-certified zebra mussel-free bait store.
- Anglers using live bait must possess a receipt *less than 48 hours old* from the certified bait store where the bait was purchased.
- This prohibition applies to all live aquatic bait, including fish that have been caught in the reservoirs.
- It is against regulations to catch fish *by any means* and then use them as bait.

NOTICE

- *The City may alter any regulations or prohibit fishing altogether as it sees fit to protect the reservoirs.*

Boating



BOATING PERMITS

- Boating at all three City reservoirs requires a valid boating permit.
- Permits must be carried while boating.
- Permits are nontransferable.
- Permit stickers must be displayed on outside of boat - one on each side in line with the rear seat.
- Permits for Liberty and Prettyboy Reservoirs are only issued by the City of Baltimore. The cost of a City season permit is \$50.00.

BOAT PERMIT RENEWAL INFORMATION

Applications Available: February 1st

Renewal Processing: Third week of February

TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION

City permits may only be obtained by mail. Send a self-addressed, stamped business-sized envelope to: **City of Baltimore, Reservoir Natural Resources Section, 5685 Oakland Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784-6828.** For more information, please call the Reservoir Boating Information Line at 410-795-6150.

- Permits for Loch Raven Reservoir are only issued by Baltimore County. For more information on County permits, please visit the Loch Raven Fishing Center at 12101 Dulaney Valley Road or call 410-887-7692, in season, or 410-887-3818, off season.

SEASONS AND TIMES

- The reservoirs are open sunrise to sunset year-round.
- The boating season at Liberty and Prettyboy Reservoirs runs from March 1st to December 31st.
- The boating season at Loch Raven Reservoir runs from April 1st to November 27th (limited schedule after Labor Day).
- Boats must be removed when the boating season ends.

REQUIREMENTS

- Reservoir boaters under 18 must be accompanied by a person 18 or older.
- All boats must be equipped with oars and oarlocks or paddles.
- Rowboats or canoes may use battery-powered electric motors.
- Racing shells are allowed only on Prettyboy (may be propelled only by rowing).
- Kayaks are allowed on all three reservoirs. All other existing "Watershed Regulations" that pertain to kayaks remain in effect.
- All watercraft must be between 12' and 20' in length.
- Boats must have beams (widths) 48" or greater and depths 18" or greater.
Canoes must have beams (widths) 35" or greater.
- Boats may only be launched and removed from designated ramps.
- Unoccupied boats must be kept securely locked at designated storage locations.
- Due to the potential for zebra mussel contamination, boaters on Liberty, Loch Raven and/or Prettyboy Reservoirs must sign an affidavit stating their boat will be used *only on these reservoirs*.

SAFETY

- All boats must be seaworthy.
- Boaters must have one U.S. Coast Guard approved *wearable* personal flotation device for each occupant.
- Boaters must have some means of making an efficient sound signal such as a whistle, bell or horn.
- Rowboats over 16' must have one *throwable* personal flotation device.
- *Most* boats require fire extinguishers.
- Boats may not be operated with a greater number of occupants than specified by manufacturer.
- Operators born on or after July 1, 1972 must have in their possession a valid Certificate of Boating Safety Education.
- Recreational boaters are urged not to interfere with persons fishing.
- Wearing life preservers is strongly recommended.

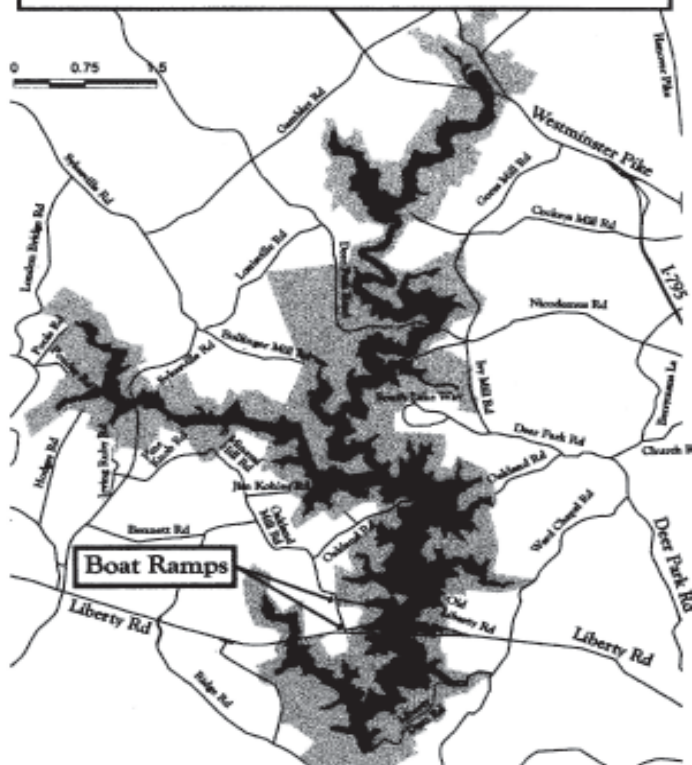
PROHIBITIONS

- Gasoline-powered engines are prohibited on the reservoirs.
- Inflatable, collapsible, sail and pontoon boats are prohibited on the reservoirs.
- *No boating* between Liberty Road and Liberty Dam.
- *No boating* between Loch Raven Drive Bridge and the Loch Raven Dam.
- *No boating* between Loch Raven Dam and small Loch Raven Dam.
- *No boating* within 1500 feet of Prettyboy Dam.
- *Only* State registration number stickers are to be displayed on the forward section of the boat.
- Improper boat storage in spaces designated for handicapped boaters is prohibited.

NOTICE

- *Persons using boats on the reservoirs do so at their own risk.*
- *The City may immediately remove and/or impound any unsafe boats.*
- *Season permits will be revoked when any boat is removed by the City.*
- *Unclaimed boats will be considered City property and may be disposed of by the City.*
- *The City is not responsible for damage to or loss of any privately-owned boat whether or not it is being held by the City because of these violations. Permits will be revoked by the City whenever the*
- *holder has been found in violation of regulations. The City may refuse past permit violators further*
- *reservoir boating privileges. The City may reinstate the moratorium on boat use*
- *on any or all of its reservoirs at any time.*

Liberty Reservoir Watershed



Liberty Reservoir



2004 ACTIVITIES:

Shoreline seining to document natural reproduction; fall gill netting for striped bass; night electrofishing to document striped bass and walleye natural reproduction; replacement of fish attractor buoys; analysis of 2003 angler diary results.

Largemouth Bass: Poor hatch documented during seining survey under high water conditions; however, young-of-year found during fall electrofishing; surveyed adult fish ranged up to 21.4 inches (7 pounds). Fish were in good physical condition in late fall.

Smallmouth Bass: Poor hatch documented during seining survey; however, found young-of-year during fall electrofishing; surveyed adult fish ranged up to 21.5 inches (5.2 pounds). Fish were in good physical condition in late fall.

Striped Bass: Poor hatch. No young-of-year striped bass were found this year during night electrofishing. Fall gill netting resulted in the collection of 17 adult striped bass ranging in size from 24.5 to 35 inches. Most of these fish (63%) were from the 1998 year class.



Walleye: Poor hatch; No young-of-year were found during night electrofishing; surveyed adult fish ranged up to 29 inches.

Bluegill: Good reproduction this year.

Stocking: 3500 adult rainbow trout (12 to 15 inch).

2003 Angler Diary Results: Of the 66 books sent out to anglers, MD-DNR received 21 back, of which 6 were blank. The most targeted species was largemouth bass followed by smallmouth bass, walleye, and striped bass. When targeting a specific fish species, anglers had the best success (number of fish caught per 8 hour day) with smallmouth bass, followed in decreasing order by largemouth bass, walleye, and striped bass.

2003 Liberty Reservoir Angler Diary Information				
Target Species	# of Anglers	Total Hours	# of Fish Caught	Catch Rate (8 hr day)
Largemouth Bass	20	780	86	0.88
Smallmouth Bass	15	681	97	1.1
Walleye	10	518	33	0.48
Striped Bass	10	326	7	0.16

2005 PLANS:

Stocking of 3500 adult rainbow trout in January; monitoring of striped bass, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and white perch populations.

2005 Reservoir Species List

Species	Liberty	Loch Raven	Prettyboy
American Eel	✓	✓	
Banded Killifish	✓	✓	✓
Black Crappie	✓	✓	✓
Blacknose Dace			✓
Bluegill	✓	✓	✓
Bluntnose Minnow	✓	✓	✓
Brook Trout			✓
Brown Bullhead	✓	✓	
Brown Trout	✓	✓	✓
Chain Pickerel		✓	
Channel Catfish	✓	✓	✓
Common Carp	✓	✓	✓
Creek Chub	✓		
Cutlips Minnow	✓		
Eastern Mosquitofish		✓	
Fallfish		✓	✓
Gizzard Shad	✓		
Golden Shiner	✓	✓	✓
Green Sunfish	✓	✓	✓
Largemouth Bass	✓	✓	✓
Mummichog	✓		

Northern Hog Sucker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Northern Pike		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Pumpkinseed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rainbow Trout	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Redbreast Sunfish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rock Bass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Rosyside Dace			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Smallmouth Bass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Spotfin Shiner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Spottail Shiner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Stoneroller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Striped Bass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Striped Bass Hybrid		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Swallowtail Shiner		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tessellated Darter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Tiger Muskellunge			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Walleye	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
White Catfish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
White Crappie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
White Perch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
White Sucker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yellow Bullhead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yellow Perch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

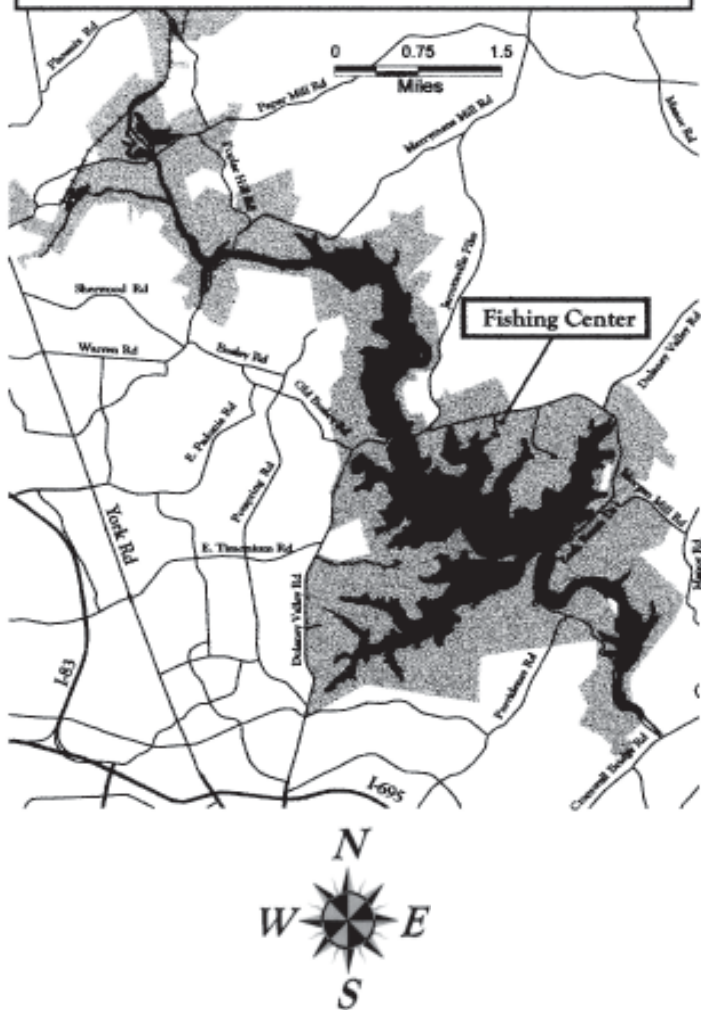
Total Species

34

30

30

Loch Raven Reservoir Watershed



Loch Raven Reservoir

2004 ACTIVITIES:

Spring electrofishing to assess populations of northern pike, largemouth bass, and white perch; shoreline seining to document natural reproduction.

Largemouth Bass: Excellent hatch. During spring survey, fish ranged up to 21.5 inches (5.75 pounds); exhibited good condition.

Smallmouth Bass: Poor hatch.

Northern Pike: Collected 5 during spring survey; ranged in size from 24.3 to 38.2 inches.

Bluegill: Excellent reproduction.

White Perch: Survey fish ranged from 8 to 11.5 inches, average size was 9.5 inches.

New Species: One brown trout was collected.

Stocking: 7500 smallmouth bass fingerling.

Exotic Species: Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) was observed for the first time on August 13, 2003 by fishery personnel. Observations by fishery staff in 2004 concluded that hydrilla was widespread between Loch Raven Drive Bridge and Dulaney Valley Road Bridge with the exception of Hampton Cove. No observations were made upstream of Dulaney Valley Road Bridge; however, it is expected that the hydrilla will spread in that area. Despite being widespread, hydrilla was not the dominant aquatic vegetation in the locations where it was found.

2005 PLANS:

Seining to document natural reproduction; monitoring the spread of hydrilla.

NOTE: *Baltimore County has a limited number of boats, electric motors and batteries available for rental use on Loch Raven Reservoir. Those interested in more information should contact the Loch Raven Fishing Center at 410-887-7692, in season, or 410-887-3818, off season.*

Loch Raven Dam Rehabilitation

Loch Raven Dam is undergoing a major structural transformation. State and Federal regulations require that Loch Raven Dam be rehabilitated and modified to withstand future significant storm events. The project is expected to be completed by early fall 2005.

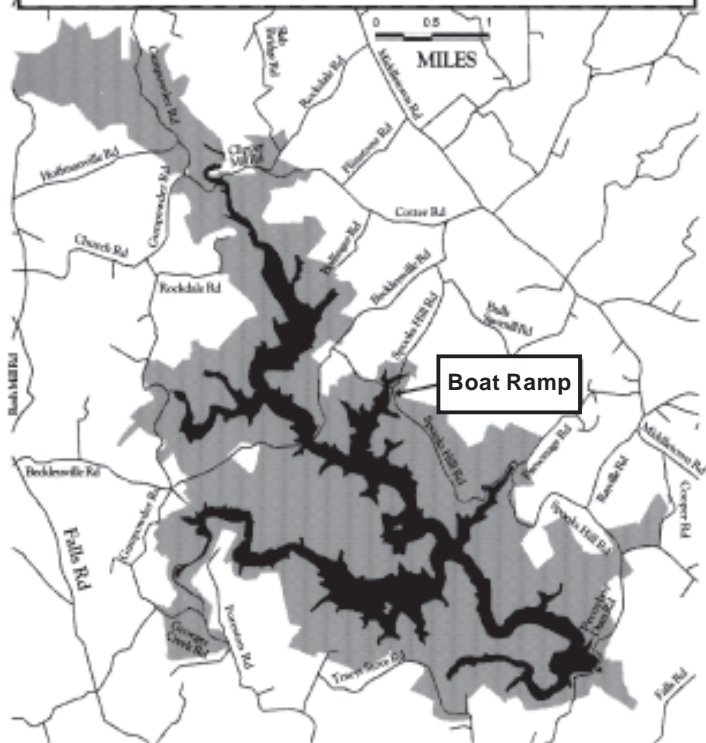
Road Closure

Loch Raven Drive will be closed from Providence Road to Cromwell Bridge Road throughout the duration of this project. In addition, the fire trail, which extends from Cromwell Valley Park to Loch Raven Drive, will no longer provide access to Loch Raven Drive, neither at the top of the upper dam, nor between the upper and lower dams.

Provisions

- No parking, hiking, cycling, skating on Loch Raven Drive and adjacent sections of Morgan Mill Road and Providence Road, M-F, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.
- Restricted recreational use of designated fire trails.
- No access to Loch Raven Drive from fire trails between dams.
- Restricted recreational use of Loch Raven Drive, between Dulaney Valley Road and Providence Road, will only be in effect during the work week. Weekend recreational opportunities will not change (specifically the closure of Loch Raven Drive between Morgan Mill Road and Providence Road to vehicular traffic).

Prettyboy Reservoir Watershed



Prettyboy Reservoir

2004 ACTIVITIES:

Spring electrofishing for white perch; shoreline seining to document natural reproduction.

Largemouth Bass: Poor hatch.

Smallmouth Bass: Poor hatch.

Walleye: No young-of-year walleye were collected.

Bluegill: Fair reproduction.

White Perch: Spring catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 585 fish/hour; fish ranged in size from 7.2 to 9.6 inches with an average size of 8.5 inches.

2005 PLANS:

Shoreline seining to monitor reproduction of fish populations, electrofishing for adult and young-of-year walleye.



Prettyboy Dam Tailwater

2004 ACTIVITIES:

The MD Fisheries Service conducted several activities in the Gunpowder Falls tailwater in 2004. Several fry observations were conducted in early spring to confirm hatching success and relative hatch strength. Several stream sections were electrofished in early summer to further determine relative abundance of young-of-year trout. Efforts to refine a new water release pattern in early spring designed to utilize surface spillover and releases from the 10-foot deep gate have continued in an attempt to bring water temperatures in the tailwater closer to those of adjacent freestone streams during the spring.

Record precipitation in 2003 and renovation activities at Loch Raven Dam precluded all attempts to survey trout populations in the Gunpowder Falls tailwater in 2003. These conditions persisted through 2004, however, two stations were able to be sampled in the fall of 2004. Overall, cooler than normal weather and abundant rainfall have kept early spring season tailwater temperatures comparable to freestone streams in 2003 and 2004. The improved discharges in the tailwater in 2003 and 2004 were also viewed as opportunistic to all trout.

Adult brown trout continues to dominate the fish biomass in the Gunpowder Falls tailwater. Standing crop at the Dam/Falls station in 2004 was estimated at 137 pounds/acre. Standing crop at the Masemore station in 2004 was estimated at 88 pounds/acre.

Results of the swim-up fry count conducted at York and Masemore Roads in April 2004 confirmed a successful hatch. Backpack electrofishing along 300 feet of shoreline at Upper Glencoe Road and another along 250 feet of shoreline at Bunker Hill Road indicated a good hatch. Final qualitative assessment of the hatch was determined following the fall electrofishing survey. Generally, the brown trout hatch was very good in 2004.

In an effort to bolster diminishing rainbow trout populations between Prettyboy Reservoir and Falls Road, Fisheries personnel resumed stocking Kamloops strain rainbow trout fingerlings upstream of Falls Road in 2002 (550), 2003 (2550) and in 2004 (2500). Prior to the last three years, Kamloops rainbow fingerlings were last stocked in the tailwater in 1990. Fisheries Service biologists documented natural reproduction by rainbows for the first time in 1991. All rainbow trout fingerlings stocked between 2002 and 2004 had their adipose fins removed for later identification.

The 2004 return rate of adipose clipped fingerling rainbows was calculated at 227 per river mile. Spillover and withdrawal of reservoir water from the 10-foot deep gate in 2003 and 2004 during the spring and early summer seasons were expected to provide the Kamloops fingerlings with an ample supply of zooplankton on which to grow fat. Generally, all recaptured rainbow fingerlings and adults exhibited very good condition.

Casual observations of fish species other than trout in recent years (2002 – 2004) indicate improving fish community diversity. Densities of sculpins have clearly increased in the last few years. Populations of minnows and suckers are also showing improvement.

2005 PLANS:

A trout hatch survey that will include general observations of swim-up fry in early spring and a young-of-year electrofishing survey at several measured stations; an adult trout survey in the fall.

Brown Trout Tagging Study Below Prettyboy

Since 1998, 1500 fish have been tagged behind the left eye with a green or orange letter/number code (e.g., H16). Signs along the Gunpowder ask anglers to report tagged trout by noting tag color, letter/number code, location caught, date caught and whether the fish was kept or released. Please call 410-442-2080 or 410-260-8287 if you catch a tagged fish.

Maryland Fishing Report

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD-DNR) Fisheries Service publishes the weekly "Maryland Fishing Report." The report is available on-line at the web address listed below. You do not need to own a computer to access the web site. Access is available free of charge at your local library where you can print out a copy.

www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishingreport/index.html



Maryland Freshwater Fishing Records

(These state record fish were caught in the
timore City Reservoirs.)

Bal-

Rock Bass

1 lb., 3 oz.
Andy Grosko
10/26/98
Liberty

Smallmouth Bass

8 lb., 4 oz.
Gary Peters
10/4/74
Liberty

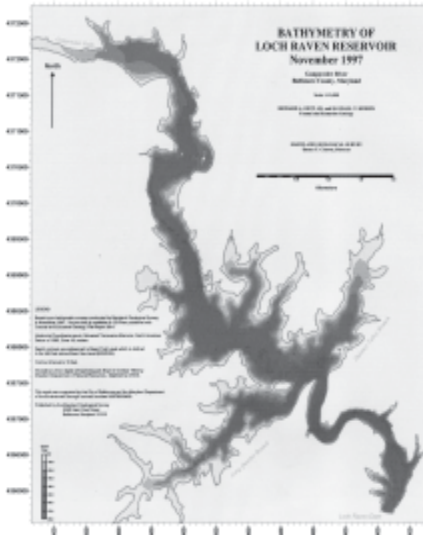
Striped Bass

47 lb., 2 oz.
Bob Bruce
9/14/00
Liberty

White Perch

1 lb., 7 oz.
Daniel Wells
4/16/03
Loch Raven
(Gunpowder Falls at Phoenix)

Bathymetric Maps



The Maryland Geological Survey has produced bathymetric maps showing the bottom contours of Loch Raven and Prettyboy Reservoirs. The maps are currently only available on-line and can be obtained by going to the following websites.

Loch Raven Reservoir Bathymetric Map:

www.mgs.md.gov/coastal/maps/lr/index.html

Prettyboy Reservoir Bathymetric Map:

www.mgs.md.gov/coastal/maps/lr/prettyboy.html

Numbers To Call

City of Baltimore Reservoir Natural Resources Section:

General Boating Information Line

410-795-6150

Other

410-795-6151

Loch Raven Fishing Center:

In Season

410-887-7692

Off Season

410-887-3818

Emergency:

911

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Notes

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Reservoir Natural Resources Section
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www.Baltimorecity.gov

BELIEVE